

60130-1201
01MRA0360**REMARKS**

Claims 15-17 and 24 are allowed. The Examiner stated that claims 2-12, 18-23 and 25 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Withdrawn claims 18-23 depend on generic independent claim 15, which the Examiner has stated is allowable. Therefore, claims 18-23 are also allowable.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because the reference numeral "554" has been used to designate both a hole and a second end in Figure 7B. Figure 7B has been amended to change the reference numeral "554" of the second end to reference numeral "544." Applicant has included a replacement sheet illustrating this amendment. The objection to the drawings is overcome.

Claims 13-14 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 14 depends on claim 13 and is also allowable.

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Muzio (U.S. Patent No. 6,123,342). Muzio does not disclose a vehicle suspension system including a band secured about and contacting a stabilizer bar and a bushing positioned about the stabilizer bar. Muzio discloses a stabilizing bar 2 that is connected to a vehicle body 5 by a connecting member 4. The connecting member 4 does not contact the stabilizing bar 2. An annular pad 7 of an elastomeric material is positioned around the stabilizing bar 2 (column 2, lines 61 to 67 and column 3, lines 1 to 9). The annular pad 7 is housed inside a cylindrical cavity 6 of the connecting member 4 (column 3 lines 3 to 7 and shown in Figure 1). That is, the annular pad 7 surrounds a portion of the stabilizing bar 2, and the connecting member 4 surrounds the annular pad 7. The connecting member 4 in Muzio does not contact the stabilizing bar 2 like the claimed invention. Muzio does not anticipate Applicant's claims, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Muzio does not disclose a band that contacts a stabilizer bar as claimed by Applicant. Therefore, non-elected claims 2-12 which depend on generic independent claim 1 are also allowable.

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Thus, claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, TC3600, Before Final (703) 872-9326 on November 25, 2003.


Amy Spaulding

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